

NEWS

HMMWV Team drives recruiting success

**STAFF SGT. NATHANIEL GARCIA**  
*MPA RS RALEIGH, N.C.*

**RS RALEIGH, N.C.** — For Sgt. Jeff A. Griessmann, Enhanced Marketing Vehicle driver (modified High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle), 4th Marine Corps District, hard work and long hours are the harsh realities he endures on a daily basis.

It may seem like fun as he cruises down the American highways receiving waves, smiles and the occasional honk of recognition from other drivers, but his role and responsibilities within the recruiting gambit are extremely important to mission success.

“The HMMWV team is an essential supporting arm of the recruiting mission,” said Capt. Matthew J. D’Agostino, 4th MCD district marketing officer. “The team is a force multiplier. Not just because the HMMWV draws more kids to the booth, but because we have outstanding NCO’s like Sgt. Griessmann manning the fighting hole.”

There are two HMMWV drivers for the district, Griessmann and Cpl.

Timothy S. Millis. These two Marines cover 11 states and are away from their homes and families 23 days of the month. Approximately 200 days out of the year. These are not the only Marines who leave their families for long periods of time, but most Marines do not do it alone.

“Any job on recruiting duty is difficult,” said Griessmann. “You have to have a strong bond with your family and let them know that what you are doing is extremely important. I believe that gets you through the tough times.

“I try not to focus on being away though,” he continued. “I just do the best job I can at events, work hard and get the job done, so I can go home. Just like anything else in the Corps.”

“I would not say it is a hard mission, just a thankless one,” said D’Agostino. “Like most advertising, it is hard to

quantify the effects on the target. However, the leads that the HMMWV team has generated cannot be dismissed. In 2004 alone, the team has generated 6,200 leads.”

Some calculate his hard work by the numbers: along with the 6,200 leads so far this year, the team participates in 70 events each year, and helps enlist an estimated nine to 12 applicants per year, and those are the only ones he has a direct impact on, because there is no way to count how many enlistments he indirectly influenced just by his presence.

These results are seen regularly at the local recruiting station events.

Recently, Griessmann attended the Men’s Expo in Novi, Mich. Driving the Marine Corps tractor-trailer that hauls the EMV, he traveled 500 miles in about eight hours from Harrisburg, Pa. He was welcomed by 25-degree weather and fierce winds.

Despite the cold and wind, Griessmann immediately went to work unloading his EMV, promotional items and a desk he was delivering to assist the command.

He would spend another night alone in a hotel only to wake again to the bitter cold and help with final preparations for the event.

During the event, he was a force multiplier for Detroit’s recruiters, talking with families, taking pictures and assisting in the pull-up challenge.

His day, which began at 8 a.m., wouldn’t end until 8 p.m. Afterward, he loaded up the HMMWV, spent another night in a hotel and then hit the road the next morning for some down time with his wife.

His job did not end there, however. The mission of the HMMWV team is misunderstood according D’Agostino. They do much more than drive the vehicle.

“In fact, they conduct maintenance on the tractor-trailer and HMMWV,” D’Agostino clarified.

Griessmann is also trained as a recruiter, works with the marketing and public affairs Marines to set up events

and has direct liaison with vendors to handle any problems.

“The team also provides a key perspective into the quality of an event,” D’Agostino added. “Because they can drive up to 20,000 miles a month, they know where the empty billboards are as well as upcoming events we may not know about. In many ways they are like a marketing and public affairs representative and recruiter.”

“We are always making a difference every time we hit the road,” said Griessmann. “From prospecting for applicants to building relationships with the community. I consider it an honor to be part of the difference it makes.”

Whether it is the pride, honor, glamour or importance of his job that keeps him going, he admits he does have some fun on the road. During the Men’s Expo last year, Griessmann was able to have dinner with the former Marine and Hollywood star, R. Lee Erney, better know as “the Gunny.”

Griessman’s life on the road and under the hood keeps him very busy, but he said that he is having the time of his life.

### Depot Church Schedule

**Sunday Services**

Catholic	9:30 a.m.	Depot Chapel
Protestant	11 a.m.	Depot Chapel
Protestant (Gospel)	11 a.m.	RMC

**Sunday School/Education**

Catholic	11 a.m.	RMC
Protestant	9:30 a.m.	RMC

**Daily Mass**

Mon-Fri. Chapel	11:40 a.m.	Depot
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**Bible Study**

Wednesday	6 p.m.	RMC
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For more information, call 228-3533.

### Depot Movie Theater

**Twisted; R**  
Fri., 7 p.m.,  
Sun., 7 p.m.

**Calendar Girls; PG;**  
Sat., 2 p.m.

### PMI/Coach of the Week ...

Lance Cpl. Brian Kester  
Primary Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. Johnny Peebles helped qualify 84 percent of the recruits from Platoon 1041, Bravo Co., 1st RTBn., making him the PMI of the week. The platoon achieved an average shooting score of 208.4. Starlight Range Coach Lance Cpl. Jason A. Oxendine (not pictured), led 12 recruits from Platoon 1041, Bravo Co., 1st RTBn., to rifle range qualification, earning him the title Coach of the Week. Oxendine coached three experts and nine marksmen.

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